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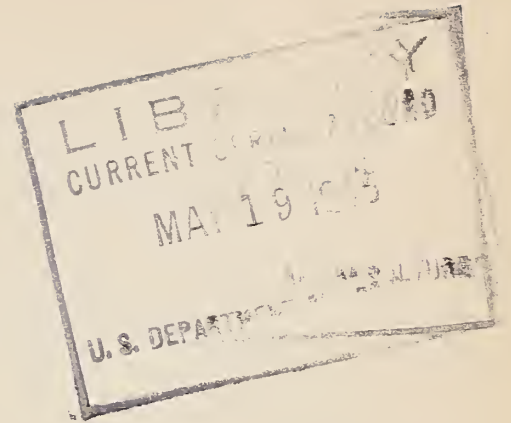
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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
150 Broadway
New York, 7, New York

....."THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT".....

(For Immediate Broadcast)

February...1945



It's February on the "Agricultural Front", and time for some up-to-the minute news about this year's food needs, potatoes, the container and bag situation, some notes on set-asides, and a little information about the vital need for fat salvage.

All of us are interested in food supplies for the year ahead...and how they match the national demand. In the words of War Food Administrator Marvin Jones: "Our food problem is more acute now than it has been before...because the needs of the Armed Forces are greater this year... they're bound to be greater with this nation engaged in full-scale wars in Europe and the Pacific."

We here at home can help to meet the ever increasing needs for food...by growing Victory Gardens, and by preserving food for home use...both from our own gardens and from fresh market supplies. The record from last year's 18 million, 500 thousand Victory Gardens is indication enough that everyone should continue to do a good gardening and home preservation job. Government and private estimates indicate that about half of the canned vegetables..and more than half of the canned fruits available to civilians are home-canned supplies. This is a fine record... and it's essential that we better that record by growing larger gardens and putting up even more food this year.

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And here's the very latest news on procurement of good quality potatoes for the Armed Forces. The War Food Administration has extended the provisions of War Food Order 120 to Aroostock County, Maine, in order to make sure that the Armed Forces will receive plenty of potatoes. The Food Order prohibits shipments of potatoes from the Aroostock area except under permits issued by the War Food Administration. This Order has been operating in Idaho and parts of Oregon and California since December 11th, 1944.

Beginning January 31st, shippers in Aroostock County must make every car loaded available for sale to a Government Agency. If the car is not taken in fresh form or directed to a dehydrator or other processor under contract to furnish processed potatoes for war use, then the potatoes may be shipped in commercial channels, under a special permit. Offers to Government Agencies must be within OPA ceiling prices, and the applicants must furnish inspection certificates. Agents of both the Quartermaster Corps and the War Food Administration are stationed at Presque Isle to expedite issuance of the permits, and to buy supplies.

This measure...the extension of WFO 120...was necessary because processors who supplied various types of field rations and other potato products to the armed forces were having a hard time obtaining potatoes in the Aroostock County area.

Aroostock, which supplies about 90 percent of the potatoes raised in the State of Maine, has a larger than average crop. But available railroad equipment hasn't been able to supply all of the demand. So shippers found

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it impossible to supply processors in addition to their regular customers. Processors weren't able to fill their requirements...since supplies in other producing areas have been smaller than usual.

The order also has special provisions relating to seed potatoes.. Some seed potatoes have been diverted into other channels, because of the strong demand for potatoes, coupled with the unusual early-season disappearance.. This is undesirable because it tends to limit the seed available for this year's potato acreage.. So the special seed and potato provisions can be used to protect stocks of seed potato stocks..

And now, here's a request from the War Food Administration...about keeping textile bags in use, to help prevent a shortage. There won't be enough new bags in 1945 to meet essential needs. So be sure to save and re-use as many bags as possible, and sell any bags you don't need to local used bag dealers.

Many of the things you buy come in bags...feed, fertilizer, seed, flour, and so on. You probably use bags in marketing potatoes, beans, and peas, wheat, barley, and oats. Many other farm crops...made into such finished products as flour, sugar, livestock feeds, soya products, and cereals, go to market in bags. Since materials for practically all these purposes are short, make full use of every bag. Remember to open bags carefully. Never cut them.. Empty them thoroughly, Spread the bags out where they're protected from weather and rodents.. If you need bags in marketing your crops...be sure to make arrangements now...otherwise you may find yourself short.

And now, here's a note on wooden containers...Normal production of fruits and vegetables will put a very heavy load on container requirements. And if those crops are larger than expected, the situation will be really grave. Wooden containers will probably be short of the demand this year...and pretty much the same situation applies for fiber boxes and packages.

This all means that it's up to you to conserve containers now, during the winter months...and build up a backlog against the heavy production months ahead.

Remember to place orders for containers as far as possible before you need them...and accept delivery any time the containers are available. Be sure to salvage containers and re-use them as often as you can. Last year, numbers of used containers were available only by consistent ordering right through the season. There's no better place to stockpile the containers than right in your sheds...so remember to order them early...accept delivery as soon as they're available, re-use them whenever possible, and build up a reserve for the heavy production months.

The Butter set-aside for February and March has recently been announced. Producers of creamery butter will be required to set aside 20 percent of their February output...and 25 percent of their March production for sale to Government agencies. This action was necessary to provide supplies urgently needed for overseas shipment to our armed forces.

The 1945 butter set-aside program will be operated in the same way as last year's. That is, set-aside quotas will be adjusted each month as

seasonal changes in production take place. That way, civilians will be provided with relatively even monthly supplies of butter.

The new butter set-aside action means that civilian supplies will be lower this month and next than they have been recently. And, since war requirements for butter are increasing, there is little hope for improvement in the butter situation for civilian consumers.

Between November 20th and December 19th, the Triple A held State Goals Meetings in each of the forty-eight states to determine how much of what crops and livestock could be raised this year. Farm leaders in each state considered what the state's farms could be counted on to produce. At those meetings, production goals were set for 1945.

In the light of what farmers themselves have said they could produce this year, it looks as though we'll continue to have plenty to eat. With average weather, 1945 production should be ample to keep us the best-fed nation at war. Of course, it's pretty hard to tell exactly what national food demands will be during the year...But we can safely say, that farmers will plant just about the same acreage as in 1944.

And speaking of planting, you probably never heard of planting a can of used kitchen fats...and having it grow. Used fats don't do exactly that as a matter of fact. But a can of kitchen fat can branch out into some pretty important war materials. For instance, it may go into the manufacture of Rockets, 37 milimeter anti-aircraft guns...dynamite for demolition. It can help to make sulfa ointments, insulin, insecticides. One tablespoon of used kitchen fat goes into smallpox vaccine for 78 men.

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Fats are needed in the manufacture of nylon for parachutes...ropes...boots... and shoes...warm clothing...They even go into lubricants...which are important in making even the tiniest airplane parts.

Most important of all...we cannot meet our needs for industrial fats unless every homemaker scrapes up every drop. One pound a month from every kitchen in the nation would double the amount available for war uses. See to it that every bit of used fat in your kitchen goes into the salvage can. Scrape, skim, and scoop are the three salvage by-words... The three S's that mean...Save it all...it's vitally needed!

Until we meet again next month on the "Agricultural Front" remember these important points...First, if you are going to need bags and containers, stock them now. Order early, accept delivery whenever they're ready. Re-use bags and containers as often as you can...and sell whatever you don't need to your local used bag or container dealer. If you observe these wartime measures, you can help to avert a serious shortage which might hit you. And remember, this month and for many months to come, we're going to need salvaged fats for industry. Scrape, scoop, and skim.

Finally, we're counting on the nation's farmers to again turn in record food production in 1945. Present farm plans aim for another banner year... and we believe they'll do it again.

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